



September 7, 2007

Dear Citizens,

Since before I became Mayor, ensuring the protection of the lives and property of the citizens of Baltimore has been one of my top priorities. After taking a close look at recent crime trends and examining our efforts, I created a new crime plan to reduce the full spectrum of crime in the city. Since this plan was put into action, we have seen real progress on the streets, and I am confident that much more will be achieved in the coming months and years.

Reducing All Crime

The men and women of the Baltimore City Police Department are making a difference through these targeted efforts, and today I will share with you some information about our recent progress. While there remains much more to be accomplished, I think you will agree that the progress made this year is very promising.

- *There are 271 fewer victims of robbery and 354 fewer victims of aggravated assault than this time last year.*
- *There are 1,662 fewer property crimes (breaking and entering, burglary, or automobile theft) than this time last year – a 9% decrease.*

Aggressive Approach to Reducing Violent Crime

In partnership with my administration, EXILE targets Baltimore's most violent offenders and gets them off the streets and into long federal prison sentences.

- *So far this year, there have been 76 federal indictments charging more than 114 violent offenders with crimes that will result in significant prison sentences. (This is a 33% increase from last year!)*

Operation Safe Streets is a strategic community-based effort to stop shootings and killings through street-level outreach, public education, and community mobilization. We launched this program in two communities experiencing heightened violence this year and are currently monitoring the outcomes.

Getting Illegal Guns Off the Street

I have introduced legislation to create Baltimore's Gun Offender Registry, which will be a tool for the BPD to keep close tabs on gun offenders. It has passed a second reading and will hopefully be implemented in the near future. In the meantime, we are moving forward with our other efforts to get guns off the street, and we are seeing outstanding results.

- *The BPD has seized 2,374 guns this year compared to 2,104 last year—an increase of 13%.*
- *The city created Baltimore's Gun Trace Task Force in May. In only three months, the Task Force has executed 17 search warrants, seized 94 guns and made 11 arrests.*

Confronting Gangs

Gangs are a citywide issue, and good intelligence is the best weapon. Each and every officer of the BPD is engaged in the fight against gangs, and the Organized Crime Division is working with federal prosecutors to dismantle gangs and drug crews. The Baltimore Police Department has the most highly evolved Gang Intelligence Unit in Maryland. This centralized unit gathers and disseminates gang intelligence information to all Baltimore City's police districts as well as other jurisdictions, the Department of Juvenile Services, Parole and Probation, School Police and federal law enforcement.

- *Close to 600 known gang members have been arrested this year.*

Youth Services Division operates Get Out of the Game, the GREAT program (gang education) and holds informational forums about gangs. Each C-SAFE site also has a gang prevention component that includes additional police presence, heightened DJS supervision of gang involved youth and community outreach and education activities.

Improving Police-Community Relations

Homicides are on the rise across the country. It is a serious problem that has my full attention. In order to arrest and prosecute these criminals, we need to build strong bonds between the police and the community. Better information leads to better crime fighting, and that's why it is so important to improve relations between the police and the communities they serve.

- *Excessive Force complaints have been reduced by 28%.*
- *Discourtesy complaints have decreased by 20%.*

- *65 officers are walking foot patrols each day – building relationships with community residents.*
- *Police officers have adopted 27 blocks, with a patrol officer walking each block on foot for one hour every day.*

What must be said over and over again is that the work done by the dedicated and outstanding individuals in the Baltimore City Police Department and their partners in law enforcement is an example of what can happen when we work together. The work they do every day, putting their lives on the line to make our city safer for the citizens, can never be appropriately compensated. I want to publicly thank them and let them know how much they are appreciated by the citizens of Baltimore.

Ultimately, the problem of crime in Baltimore is not going to be solved with police work alone. As the police build upon their success in the streets, individuals and communities need to take responsibility for their neighborhoods as well. People need to learn respect for human life, and compassion for their neighbors. Until everyone understands that no beef, debt, or drug corner is more important than a single human life, reducing crime in the city will always be an uphill battle.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor
Baltimore

Sign Up for the Mayor's Neighborhood Newsletter

News for Communities from Communities

In an effort to continue our close work with neighborhoods on public safety initiatives and strategies, Mayor Sheila Dixon has given the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods & Constituent Services the task of creating a public safety newsletter; one that is created for communities and by communities. One of the recurring themes that Mayor Dixon and the Neighborhood Liaisons hear in community meetings is the need to receive information from the City on public safety strategies and a means to share best practices being implemented in various neighborhoods with regard to crime.

The proposed newsletter will be a forum for communities to share those best practices and for the City to provide information about initiatives such as Operation Crime Watch, Clergy on Patrol, and others. It will require the collaboration of community groups like yours, the Police Department, the Mayor's Office, and our other public

safety partners.

We are really excited to be able to send out our first newsletter. In order to receive it, you will need to send a blank email to the following address: NeighborhoodNews-Subscribe@lists.baltimorecity.gov. You will receive a confirmation email once you have signed up.

The Mayor believes that community engagement is critical to the success of taking back our neighborhoods, so I urge you to please work with us in sharing and showing your neighbors that together, we can make a difference.

9-11 Run to Remember

5K Run and 1 Mile Walk

Sep 11, 2007

Baltimore Police Headquarters
601 East Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD

7:00 a.m.

Entry Fees

\$25 if postmarked before Sept 1
\$30 thru Sept 10 (do not mail after 9/3)
\$35 Race Day

\$5 Discount for all law enforcement and fire agency employees.

For entry form and additional registration information, visit the [9-11 Run to Remember](#) homepage.

Baltimore Farmers' Market

Sundays Under the JFX

Baltimore Farmers' Market:

Everyone is invited to enjoy this one-of-a-kind shopping experience at economical prices. While strolling the market, guests can revel at the sight of the large quantity of the freshest fruits and vegetables, eggs, a variety of breads from Maryland area farmers, and delight in homemade treats. In addition, food vendors add spice to the market with cultural cuisine, popular pit beef sandwiches, pastries, cheeses, and gourmet treats.

Sundays, May 6 - December 23, 2007
8am to sellout, approximately noon

Holliday and Saratoga streets underneath the Jones Falls Expressway

Activities for the Whole Family

Special Events All Around Baltimore

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks offers activities for city residents and guests - educational hikes and walks, sports leagues, youth and senior activities, and fun for the family.

Please visit [Rec & Parks' Events Calendar](#) for dates and times.



TV25: The True View of Baltimore

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